

Attorney Docket No. 67369

first and second interlockable fastener tracks joined to said front and said rear panels at said package opening, configurable in an interlocked, closed position and an unlocked open position;

a slider movable along said fastener tracks to configure said tracks in said interlocked position so as to close said opening and to configure said fastener tracks in said unlocked position so as to allow access through said opening to said package interior;

said fastener tracks having opposed ends located adjacent said opposed sides of said front and said rear panels;

stops adjacent said ends of said fastener tracks to interfere with and prevent travel of said slider beyond said fastener tracks;

a side seal of pre-selected width joining together one side of said front and said rear panels;

a shroud covering at least the major portion of said fastener tracks;

weakening portions extending adjacent said fastener tracks severably connecting said shroud to said side portions in preparation for removal of said shroud from the remainder of said reclosable flexible package said weakening portions including a line of weakness extending along the substantial entirety of said fastener tracks;

said shroud defining at least one opening for exposing another portion of said slider, said opening having an acute angle portion communicating with said weakening portion;

said side seal having an enlarged end portion of enlarged width adjacent said fastener tracks, with at least a part of said enlarged end portion disposed below said fastener tracks; and

wherein said enlarged end portion is disposed beneath the substantial entirety of said slider and shields said slider, deflecting product being discharged from said package interior, around said slider.

REMARKS

With entry of the above Amendment, claims 1, 5-14, 16-20 and 22 are now present in the application, claims 4, 15 and 21 having been cancelled and new claim 22 having been added.

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At the outset, Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-10 and 15. Claim 4 has, in effect, been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1 and claim 15 has been written in independent form as new claim 22.

The objection to the drawings and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, is believed to have been fully overcome with the cancellation of claim 21 and the Amendment to claim 1 to remove the claim feature objected to.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 and accordingly is believed to be allowable. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 22. The remaining claims now present in the application depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1 and are also believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, in light of the above Amendment and Remarks, claims 1, 5-14, 16-20 and 22, all the claims now present in the application are believed to be allowable and an early allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

There are six (6) total pages in this Amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"**IN THE CLAIMS:****Claim 1 is amended as follows:****1. (Twice Amended) A reclosable flexible package comprising:**

opposed front and rear panels having side portions joined together to form an interior and a package opening communicating with said interior;

first and second interlockable fastener tracks joined to said front and said rear panels at said package opening, configurable in an interlocked, closed position and an unlocked open position;

a slider movable along said fastener tracks to configure said tracks in said interlocked position so as to close said opening and to configure said fastener tracks in said unlocked position so as to allow access through said opening to said package interior;

said fastener tracks having opposed ends located adjacent said opposed sides of said front and said rear panels;

stops adjacent said ends of said fastener tracks to interfere with and prevent travel of said slider beyond said fastener tracks;

a side seal of pre-selected width joining together one side of said front and said rear panels;

a shroud covering [a portion of said slider and] at least the major portion of said fastener tracks;

weakening portions extending adjacent said fastener tracks severably connecting said shroud to said side portions in preparation for removal of said shroud from the remainder of said reclosable flexible package said weakening portions including a line of weakness extending along the substantial entirety of said fastener tracks and across substantially the entire extent of said reclosable flexible package; and

said shroud defining at least one opening for exposing another portion of said slider, said opening having an acute angle portion communicating with said weakening portion.

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Claim 6 is amended as follows:

6. (Amended) The reclosable flexible package of claim 5 wherein said [further comprising a] line of weakness cooperates [extending along said fastener tracks, cooperating] with said tear-start feature to tear said reclosable flexible package, allowing said shroud to be removed from the remainder of said reclosable flexible package.

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